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TELECOMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
2004 MAR - 9 PM 12: 40

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June 10, 2003

Via Electronic Mail and U.S. Mail

· Monica M. Barone, Esq. Sprint PCS Law and Regulatory Affairs 6450 Sprint Parkway, 2nd Floor KSOPHNO212 Overland Park, Ks. 66251

RECEIVED **RON JONES** JUN 1 3 2003 .

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Re: Docket No. 00-00523 - Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service

Dear Ms. Barone.

This letter is written on behalf of the Tennessee Rural Independent Coalition (the "Coalition") and responds to your correspondence of June 6, 2003 on behalf of AT&T Wireless, Cingular Sprint PCS, and Verizon Wireless (collectively, the "CMRS Providers"). The names of the members of the Coalition are set forth in footnote 1 to Director Jones' May 5, 2003 Order. Each of the Coalition members acknowledges the interconnection request set forth in the CMRS providers' letter of May 29, 2003 and the clarification provided in the June 6 letter.

Each of the Coalition members has also directed me to confirm to the CMRS Providers the respective intent of each to participate in collective negotiations with representation from this office. With respect to participation in collective negotiations, we discussed several aspects in the course of our meeting in Nashville on June 2-3, 2003, as follows:

- 1. As with any engagement of professional representation, the Coalition members may as a whole or individually withdraw from representation by this office at any time.
- 2. No party will utilize the collective negotiation process as a means to limit any other party's statutory and regulatory rights. While we will all endeavor in good faith to negotiate issues on an efficient collective basis, the Coalition Members understand that any one of the CMRS Providers may not always agree on every issue. Each CMRS Provider is free to advocate and pursue its individual rights. Similarly, it is possible that an individual Coalition Member may not agree with other members on every issue. Each Coalition Member also retains its right to advocate and pursue its individual position.

3. Ultimately, under Section 251 of the Communications Act, as amended (the "Act"), many of the aspects of an interconnection negotiation may be carrier to carrier specific. Some of these aspects may include the specific physical connecting arrangement, originating and terminating traffic factors, and rates. While the Coalition willingly undertakes a collective negotiation process together with the CMRS Providers in order to work toward an efficient resolution of all matters that are subject to your request, the Coalition acknowledges, and requests that the CMRS Providers acknowledge, that the ultimate resolution of carrier to carrier interconnection agreements may require individual company negotiation. To the extent that such individual company negotiation does not result in mutual agreement, individual arbitration regarding carrier to carrier arrangements may be required, consistent with Section 252 of the Act.

With respect to the agreement of the parties reached at the June 2-3 meeting regarding process and schedule, our understanding is as follows:

June 10 – The CMRS Providers will transmit a matrix setting forth identified negotiation issues.

June 16 – Parties will exchange positions on the issues identified in the matrix

June 20 - The CMRS Providers will transmit a proposed interconnection agreement draft

July 10 - The Coalition will transmit a "redline" of the proposed draft

July 16-17 – The parties will meet to negotiate issues.

We also agreed that with respect to Section 252 of the Act, October 12, 2003 is the 135th day and November 12th is the 160th day following the request for interconnection issues by each of the CMRS Providers to each of the Coalition Members.

On behalf of the Coalition members, I look forward to working with you and the representatives of each of the other responding CMRS Providers to work through an efficient process and mutually agreeable terms and conditions with respect to the interconnection that each of your companies has requested from each of the Coalition members.

Sincerely,

Stephen G. Kraskin

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Cc: Director Ron Jones

Representatives of the CMRS Providers (via E-Mail)

Representatives of BellSouth (via E-Mail)